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The Gift of Education is a Present for the Future

Washington's prepaid college tuition program offers waste-free option for holiday giving

OLYMPIA – This holiday season, parents and grandparents will consider the gift of education as a thoughtful choice that's both above the ordinary and guaranteed to increase in value. Parents can open or contribute to a child's college savings account (and pass along the hint to friends and relatives) with Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program. GET is a 529 prepaid tuition plan, guaranteed by state law to keep pace with rising tuition, no matter how much it increases in the future. It's guaranteed, which brings a peace of mind that's exceptional in today's volatile market.

GET offers flexible payment options, as well as tax-free growth and withdrawals. When a child is ready for that big step, GET units can be used at nearly any college, university or vocational school in the country. "Though college may seem like a long time off, we encourage parents to start college savings early when their children are young. We also suggest contributions to a GET account as a great gift from grandparents and other relatives," said GET Director Betty Lochner.

Enrollment is easy online and gift certificates can be downloaded right from the site. "No last minute shopping trips or extra wrapping paper are needed," said Lochner, and a college education is a gift your children will never outgrow."

Parents can enroll their children now through March 31st. For further information call 1-800-955-2318 or visit www.get.wa.gov.

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***Note to Editors:* Local families are available for interviews.**